

Character List

-SAMANTHA KINGSTON:

Samantha is the narrator of this novel and is a high school student. She has the looks, a cool boyfriend, as well as cool friends. She solely focuses on maintaining her popularity in school, trying to act as cool as possible all the time.

-ELIZABETH KINGSTON (IZZY):

Elizabeth is a younger sister of Samantha. Before Samantha starts to re-live the same day over and over again, Elizabeth does not take an important part in her life. However, Samantha later realizes her love for Elizabeth as she starts to look around her.

-LINDSAY EDGECOMB:

Lindsay is Samantha's best friend and a leader of the group of four popular girls. She is very attractive and pretty. Everyone tries to please her because they do not want to be hated by her since she holds the most power in school.

-ELODY & ALLY:

Elody and Ally are also in the 'popular' group. They are always busy trying to do things that would please Lindsay so that they don't become one of the unpopular ones. They have no courage to disobey Lindsay, which Samantha finds disturbing later on.

-ROB COKRAN:

Rob is Samantha's popular and good looking boyfriend. Samantha always feels proud to have a boyfriend like him. Rob himself also realizes that he is popular, and is like a male version of Lindsay.

-KENT FULLER:

Kent is Samantha's friend from elementary school. He has never been able to be one of the popular kids throughout his school life. Although he likes Samantha, Samantha does not accept him because he does not meet her standards.

-JULIET SYKES:

Juliet Sykes is a girl who Lindsay used to be close with in 5th grade. After 5th grade, Lindsay and Juliet start to depart because Lindsay ditches her for lack of popularity. Juliet later commits suicide at the party in which Lindsay attends as well.

Major Character Analysis

- SAMANTHA KINGSTON:

Samantha is one of the high school girls that are pretty and popular. She is very attractive; has blonde hair and blue eyes. In the beginning of the novel, her major focus in life is her popularity and how 'cool' she looks to others. Also, she goes out with Rob, who is also one of the most popular and attractive guys at her school, and feels proud. She feels embarrassed talking to unpopular people, and believes that hanging out with the cool kids is prominent in surviving high school life. However, as she is given seven chances to live a same day again and again, she starts to make changes in her stereotypes and perspectives.

-LINDSAY EDGECOMB:

Lindsay is one of the popular girls and is one of the best friends of Samantha whom everyone wants to please because she holds a large amount of power in school. Lindsay also is pretty, or "hot" as the high school guys call her. Lindsay is the leader of the group of four popular girls including Samantha, Elody, Ally, and herself. She tends to stimulate her friends to look down on anybody that is not as popular as much as they are. She humiliates a lot of people that lack 'coolness' and is always in the center of every decision-making process among her friends.

-KENT FULLER:

Kent is Samantha's best friend who is not even close to being attractive. He is neither charming nor cool, and is considered as one of the "uncool" kids in school. Kent has been friends with Samantha since 5th grade, and has been having a crush on her. However, his love is not accepted by Samantha because Samantha always looks down on him. Despite Samantha's severe rejections, Kent constantly tries to convince her. He has a very optimistic personality, trying to laugh everything off; even Samantha's harsh rejections.

Important Quotations

- 1. "The point is, we can do things like that. You know why? Because we're popular. And we're popular because we can get away with everything. So it's circular" (Oliver,13).***

This quote is said by Samantha in the very beginning of the novel. Until this time, popularity and coolness is everything that matters to Samantha, because she believes that it is the only thing that could make her high school life easier. This quote shows how Samantha is proud of being one of the popular ones, and how she emphasizes the importance of popularity. By this, we can assume that Samantha is a girl that would do anything to please her popular friends and maintain her popularity.

2. “Rob Cokran and I have been going out since October, but I’ve been in love with him since sixth grade, when he was too cool to talk to me. Rob was my first crush, or at least my first real crush” (Oliver, 14).

This quote is also said in the beginning of the novel by Samantha. As she is introducing herself and being proud of her popularity, she starts talking about her boyfriend Rob. She states that Rob used to be too cool to talk to her in sixth grade, and that he was her first crush. By this, we can see that Samantha is proud of her increased popularity over time, looking at how she emphasizes the fact that he ‘used’ to be too cool for her. Another factor we can notice in this quote is that Samantha seems to believe that popularity could be an obstacle in liking somebody, once again showing her obsession with popularity.

3. “It’s a big deal how many roses you get. You can tell who’s popular and who isn’t by the number of roses they’re holding. It’s bad if you get under ten and humiliating if you don’t get more than five- it basically means that you’re either ugly or unknown. Probably both” (Oliver, 53).

This is another quotation showing how much importance Samantha emphasizes on popularity. Roses that the students get on the Cupid Day mean so much to Samantha, who believes that the roses that people receive symbolize how popular or cool they are. She almost seems desperate to show off her popularity, waiting for roses to be sent to her. It is noticeable how immature Samantha is in dealing with certain things in life, relating every little thing to her popularity. At the same time, it seems that Samantha is

eager to receive more than ten roses because she characterizes those without roses as complete losers so harshly, trying to justify her obsession with the roses.

4. *“I don’t know where this is coming from, this feeling of complete and total control. Up until a few months ago, I still turned to Jell-O whenever a guy talked to me, including Rob. But this feels easy, natural, like I’ve slipped into the skin that belongs to me for the first time in my life” (Oliver, 201).*

This quote is said by Samantha later on in the novel, after she has re-lived her day a several times. Samantha states that she felt different dealing with her boyfriend than she used to, as she went through the same day over and over again. It seems that Samantha has been “turning into a Jell-O” in front of guys because she has been pressuring herself to look good to them and maintain her popularity. However, as the story goes on, Samantha starts to look at more various things around her as she gets to live the same day multiple times, and notices that she does not really need to be overly obsessed with her popularity because that is not the only thing that is important in her life.

5. *“He looks back at me, his face twisted with disgust and anger. This cannot be the same person who a week ago nestled against my shoulder and told me I was his personal blanket. It’s like his face has dropped away and there’s a totally different face underneath” (Oliver, 235).*

This quote is said by Samantha towards the end of the novel, when she breaks up with her popular boyfriend. He changes completely, starts to get angry that he has been dumped by Samantha. From this, Samantha's change in herself is shown. Old Samantha would not have dumped her boyfriend because she would have been too afraid of losing her popularity. However, because she grew more mature and started to look at other things around her, she now gained courage to speak for herself and do what she wants. Also, Rob's anger towards Samantha for breaking up with him shows that he has been thinking of Samantha as someone that is inferior to him, which shows that Samantha's belief that she had become someone completely cool enough to cover up her future in which she was not so popular has been wrong.